

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 USIA-06 ABF-01 /020 W

----- 021228

R 050355Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1376

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NEA/EX WILLIAMSON FROM PROVENCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, IR, USIRJC

SUBJECT: HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN TEHRAN

1. HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN. BRIBERY, POLITICAL PRESSURE AND OTHER DODGES FREQUENTLY REQUIRED TO SECURE ACCOMMODATIONS. WE KNOW OF AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE WHERE DOLS 75 UNDERCOUNTER BRIBE PAID FOR ASSURANCE OF LODGING AND SUCH SIZEABLE HANDOUT NOT GUARANTEE MORE THAN ONE NIGHT'S ACCOMMODATION.

2. IN LIGHT THIS CRITICAL SITUATION AND CONTINUING FLOW OF OFFICIAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL VISITORS WE WOULD LIKE SUGGEST NEA/EX AGREEMENT TO FUND EMBASSY LEASING BLOCK OF FIVE OR TEN DOUBLE ROOMS ON PERMANENT BASIS AT BEST NEGOTIABLE PRICE. ROOMS WOULD BE ALLOTTED BY EMBASSY HOUSING UNIT TO RECUPERATE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE AGAINST BUREAU FUNDS ADVANCE. ON BASIS CURRENT VISITOR RATE WE ESTIMATE VERY HIGH PERCENT OCCUPANCY. BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH LESSOR TO COVER ALMOST FULL COST OF LEASE WITH OFFICIAL VISITORS AND/OR OTHER HARD-PRESSED TRANSIENTS WHEN VACANCY OCCURS. ESTIMATED ANNUAL LEASE FOR FIVE DOUBLE ROOMS IS \$64,000. THIS BEST PRICE CURRENTLY NEGOTIABLE.

3. AN ADDITIONAL BACKUP TO LEASED HOTEL SPACE WOULD BE TO CONVERT FOUR OR FIVE STORAGE ROOMS OF NOW SHABBY TOP FLOOR OF USIS FBO BUILDING INTO TRANSIENT QUARTERS WITH COMMON BATHROOM AT END OF HALLWAY. ESTIMATE COST ABOUT DOLS 5,000. USIS
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WILLING MANAGE PROJECT IF EMBASSY COULD REFURBISH.

4. PLEASE COMMENT ASAP.
HELMS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN04133
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750156-0553
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaaegs.tel
Line Count: 57
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971006
Subject: n/a
TAGS: AFSP, IR, USIRJC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006